

CLAIMS:

1. A switch device in a steering wheel of a vehicle, wherein the steering wheel has a front side facing a driver of the vehicle and a back side opposite from the front side, the switch device comprising:

5 a front switch assembly that is provided on the steering wheel to rotate integrally with the steering wheel, wherein the front switch assembly has a front switch facing the same direction as the front side of the steering wheel;

10 a back switch that is provided on the steering wheel to rotate integrally with the steering wheel, wherein the back switch is located at a position closer to the back side of the steering wheel than the front switch assembly;

15 a switch marking provided on the back switch, wherein the switch marking faces the same direction as the front side of the steering wheel; and

20 a back switch light source provided in the front switch assembly, wherein the back switch light source illuminates the switch marking.

2. The switch device according to claim 1; wherein the front switch has a switch marking, wherein the front switch assembly has a circuit board and a front switch light source for illuminating the switch marking of the front switch, and wherein the front switch light source and the back switch light source are located on the circuit board.

30 3. The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the front switch assembly includes a light guide, and wherein the light guide has a refractive surface that refracts light emitted by the back switch light source such that the light heads for the switch marking.

35 4. The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the

front switch assembly includes a light guide, and wherein the light guide has a light projecting surface that widens a projection angle of light that is emitted by the back switch light source and heads for the switch marking.

5

5. The switch device according to claim 4, wherein the light projecting surface is shaped as a part of a sphere that bulges toward the switch marking.

10

6. The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the back switch light source is a light-emitting diode (LED).

15

7. The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the back switch includes a manipulation knob, wherein the manipulation knob extends from a boss portion of the steering wheel such that the knob is behind the front switch, and wherein the switch marking is provided on the knob.

20

8. The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the back switch is plated with metal.

25

9. A steering wheel of a vehicle, the steering wheel having a front side facing a driver of the vehicle and a back side opposite from the front side, the steering wheel comprising:

a front switch assembly that is provided on the steering wheel to rotate integrally with the steering wheel, wherein the front switch assembly has a front switch facing the same direction as the front side of the steering wheel;

30

a switch marking provided on the front switch;

a back switch that is provided on the steering wheel to rotate integrally with the steering wheel, wherein the back switch is located at a position closer to the back side of the steering wheel than the front switch assembly;

35

a switch marking provided on the back switch, wherein the

switch marking faces the same direction as the front side of the steering wheel;

a front switch light source for illuminating the switch marking on the front switch;

5 a back switch light source for illuminating the switch marking on the back switch; and

a circuit board provided in the front switch assembly, wherein the front switch light source and the back switch light source are provided on the circuit board.

10

10. The steering wheel according to claim 9, wherein the front switch assembly includes a light guide, and wherein the light guide has a refractive surface that refracts light emitted by the back switch light source such that the light 15 heads for the switch marking on the back switch.

15

11. The steering wheel according to claim 9, wherein the front switch assembly includes a light guide, and wherein the light guide has a light projecting surface that widens a 20 projection angle of light that is emitted by the back switch light source and heads for the switch marking on the back switch.

20

12. The steering wheel according to claim 11, wherein the light projecting surface is shaped as a part of a sphere that 25 bulges toward the switch marking.

25

30

13. The steering wheel according to claim 9, wherein the front switch light source and the back switch light source are light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

30

35

14. The steering wheel according to claim 9, wherein the back switch includes a manipulation knob, wherein the manipulation knob extends from a boss portion of the steering wheel such that the knob is behind the front switch, and

wherein the switch marking on the back switch is provided on the knob.

15. The steering wheel according to claim 9, wherein the
5 back switch is plated with metal.

16. A switch device in a steering wheel of a vehicle,
wherein the steering wheel has a front side facing a driver of
the vehicle and a back side opposite from the front side, the
10 switch device comprising:

a front switch that is provided on the front side of the
steering wheel to rotate integrally with the steering wheel;

15 a back switch that is provided on the steering wheel to
rotate integrally with the steering wheel, wherein the back
switch is located at a position closer to the back side of the
steering wheel than the front switch;

a switch marking provided on the back switch, wherein the
switch marking faces the same direction as the front side of
the steering wheel; and

20 a back switch light source that is provided in the
steering wheel to rotate integrally with the steering wheel,
wherein the back switch light source illuminates the switch
marking.